Giant Hogweed

2015 Field Activities

SLELO – PRISM Giant Hogweed Control Program
May – June 2015

Report prepared by Michael Parks, Ed Miller and Rob Williams, June 2015

Introduction and Background:

During the first year of the SLELO program, partners at the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Lands and Forests, joined forces with the SLELO partnership to collaborate on efforts to eradicate[1] Giant Hogweed populations from the region. This report reflects observations and efforts made during the 2015 field season. In some instances, field data is compared to previous years to determine growth dynamics and efficacy. Figure 1: shows early detection team member Caitlin Muller with one new observation in 2015.

Figure 1: Rapid response team member Caitlin Muller with newly discovered Giant Hogweed Site.

Beginning in 2012, a total of 134 Giant Hogweed sites were identified within the five counties representing the SLELO region. Control of these sites was distributed among regional partners possessing the capability to administer control measures. A breakdown of treatment sites and the responsible partner are presented in Table 1.

Biology of (*Heracleum mantegazziamum*):

During the first two years of growth, Giant Hogweed (GH), produces only basal leaves. During the third year of growth and once enough energy is stored within the root system, GH produces a fast growing terminal leader (primary stalk) often referred to as a bolt which then produces a flowering seed head known as an umbel, which is capable of producing up to 20,000 seeds [2] . Given that the plant takes three years to reach maturity, eradication becomes possible during first and second generation plant growth.

[1] The biology of this plant allows for potential eradication.
[2] NYS DEC Division of Lands and Forests

2015 Field Activities:

This season, the SLELO licensed applicator Mike Parks and Field Assistant Ed Miller (Figure 2) visited a total of 47 sites within two counties, Jefferson and Lewis. A total of 31 sites were treated using multiple techniques.

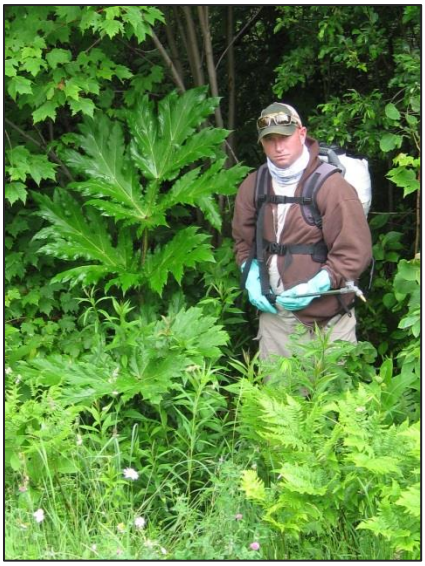

Figure 2: Field Assistant Ed Miller applying a foliar application to GH plants.

Foliar applications = 21 sites
Root cut method = 10 sites

Sites treated in Oneida County are being completed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and have not yet been reported. Oswego County sites for 2015 are pending. Based on 2015 field data, **fourteen (14) sites within the SLELO PRISM region have now been eradicated** (Table 1). It should be noted that numerical comparisons of sites treated can fluctuate from year to year. As some sites are eradicated, other "new" sites are discovered and added to the list which creates a fluctuating dynamic in sites reported and treated (Table 2). It should also be noted that (to date) no GH sites have been confirmed in St. Lawrence County**.**

Table 1, shows a comparison of treatment sites over a three year period along with eradicated sites which are considered to have no regrowth for three or more consecutive years.

County within SLELO PRISM	Partner Agency	**Eradicated Sites**	Sites Treated in 2012	Sites Treated In 2013	Sites Treated in 2014	Sites Treated in 2015	Change from 2014 to 2015
St. Lawrence	SLELO	**0**	0	0	0	0	0
Jefferson	SLELO	**0**	6	4	8	8	n/a
Lewis	SLELO	**7**	36	27	37 New sites added	23	-14 sites showed no regrowth
Oneida	DEC	**6**	10	69	69		No data
Oswego	SWCD	**1**-an additional 5 sites were reported in 2014 with no regrowth for two consecutive years.	5	35	41	*pending*	*pending*
Totals		**14**	57 sites	135 sites	155	31	*pending*

Discussion:

With continued treatment of GH sites across the SLELO Region and within central New York, it is hoped that the number of sites showing no post treatment regrowth will increase along with a subsequent reduction in overall treatment sites. Partners of the SLELO-PRISM will continue with treatment efforts towards this goal.

As previously mentioned, numerical comparisons of sites treated can fluctuate from year to year. As some sites are eradicated, other "new" sites are discovered and added to the list. It is also helpful to track sites that have consistantly fewer pants over the treatment period. Table 2, depicts an all-inclusive dynamic comparison of sites and status. Note that this table excludes data from Oswego and Oneida Counties as these data have yet to be reported.

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